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CIA 1.01 TURNER, Adm
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'No. 1 spook' promises to ease secrecy at CIA

By Jean Latz Griffin

THE MAN WHO calls himself "America's No. 1 spook" came within 10 miles of his Highland Park boyhood home Sunday night to talk about "forging a new model of American intelligence," to promise more openness in spying, but also to caution that not all secrets can be shared.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, 53, who has been director of the Central Intelligence Agency since President Carter gave him that job last March, spoke to more than 500 people in the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield.

In the audience were men who had gone to high school with Turner at Highland Park High School, and jokes about Turner's pride as he once had walked down the school's halls with his new football letter were mingled with questions about covert activities, assassination, and intrigue.

THE AUDIENCE was mostly North Shore establishment, with blue suits and pinstripes, proper dresses and Gucci bags. But many of the questions came from obvious outsiders, eager young men in beards and jeans, dedicated young women with waist-length hair.

The crowd was tolerant, warm, and applauded a lot. Turner warmed to the enthusiasm, and when one questioner pressed a bit too hard, some in the audience shouted, "sit down — get on to the next question."

Turner admitted that when he inherited the CIA, he found it "beleaguered by criticism," but said he saw his opportunity to build a new model of intelligence work based on openness and outside control.

"THERE WILL be areas that we can't share because they would evaporate, but the major part of our work isn't clandestine — it's the same kind of research you might find on a large university campus," Turner said.

"Every time we complete a major report, we will go through it and expunge those parts that must remain secret, and if there's enough left that makes sense, we will publish it," Turner said.

He cited studies on world energy, the steel industry, and the Soviet economy as three such reports published since he has taken over the CIA.

ASKED TO comment on recent news stories that about 800 CIA agebts would be fired this year, Turner said that a buildup in staff for covert operations during the Viet Nam war hadn't yet been reduced, and that the extra people were idle.

"We can't have overstaffing and good morale. We are cutting back to improve service," Turner said.

Turner also was asked about former CIA Director Richards Helms, who recently was fined \$2,000 in exchange for a "no contest" plea on charges of lying to a Senate committee.

TURNER SAID that, while he was relieved that Helms wouldn't have to reveal CIA in a trial, which could endanger the country, Helms' problems also reminded him that "no one is above the law and no one can lie and get away with it."

Turner said the control that was being built into the new model of American intelligence included a code of ethics for spies, laws and regulations governing CIA activities, and "public oversight."

"We aren't facing easy decisions. We're trying to figure out how far we can go to get information that our country's decision-makers need. It's hard to know what type of activities the American people will accept, because we can't send up a trial balloon or an operation won't be secret anymore," Turner said.

HE SAID THE president, vice president, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and a similar committee in the House of Representatives are acting as a "surrogate public oversight" board, hearing and deciding what is proper.

Turner said the most sensitive area of intelligence is covert activity — "taking action in another country to influence events without anyone knowing who was doing the influencing."

"Right now control over covert activity has

tightened to the point that any covert action must be approved by the president and the Senate Select Committee. If it is approved, I then must report to eight committees of Congress on the activity," Turner said, adding that these restrictions could cause security leaks and encourage caution.

"I THINK IT will be two to three years before we strike a good balance between oversight and the secrecy and boldness we need," Turner said.

One man asked Turner, "How can we trust the new CIA, since we have found it wasn't wise to trust the old CIA?"

"This speech is part of a policy of openness," Turner said. "It is the third of four speeches I plan this weekend. I am building into my calendar frequent contacts with the American people to let them know what we are doing and what we are planning. You can hear what I say and then see what the CIA does and Judge for yourself."

BUT TURNER, who was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University in England, president of the Naval War College, and commander of the 2d fleet in the Atlantic, ended his speech with an assurance that for him, there was more to intelligence-gathering than intellect.

"Every night when I go to bed I ask myself what my intuition tells me I have to look into tomorrow," he said.

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Unitarian Church